

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated February 8th, 2005, in which: claims 9-18 are objected to for informalities; claims 1,2, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kane* (U.S. Patent No. 1,956,686, hereinafter "*Kane*"); claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over *Kane*; claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kane* in view of *Benner* (U.S. Patent No. 4,222,204, hereinafter "*Benner*"); claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kane* in view of *Duescher* (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,882, hereinafter "*Duescher*"); claims 9,11,15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Olbrich* (U.S. Patent No. 5,295,328, hereinafter "*Olbrich*") in view of *Kane*; claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Olbrich* in view of *Kane*, and further in view of *Benner*; claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Olbrich* in view of *Kane* and further in view of *Duescher*; claims 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim; and claims 19-23 are allowed. Claims 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19-23 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 18 have been amended, and claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 11, and 14-17 have been canceled.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9-18 for informalities. It is noted that claims 9, 11 and 14-17 have been canceled. The Applicant believes the amendments to claims 10, 12, 13 and 18 obviate the objection, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his objection to these claims.

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 18 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, and states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten these claims in independent form, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his objection.

It is noted that amendments made to the claims as filed do not create any prosecution history estoppel. Additionally, amendments made to the claims do not necessarily indicate that Applicant is surrendering claim scope. Any surrender of claim scope will not take place unless claims narrower than originally presented are issued.

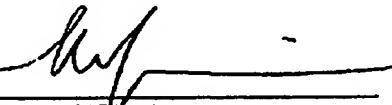
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 640-6475. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-3130.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/8/05



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